



Kindergarten Unit

“What is Water?”

Objective: To introduce kindergartners to the basic concepts of water, where it comes from and why it is important in their lives.

Materials and supplies available to support this unit: *

- ◆ Rain Game headbands
 - ◆ “Water!” pdf or handout
 - ◆ Coloring books
 - ◆ Stickers
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Lesson 1: Where does water come from?

Water is all over the earth. It is in rivers, lakes and oceans. When the sun heats the water in the rivers, lakes, and oceans, the water turns into clouds. The clouds you see in the sky are made up of millions of water droplets. When the water droplets become big and heavy, they fall from the clouds to the earth. If it is warm outside, the water falls as rain. If it is cold outside, the water falls as snow. When the rain or snow falls on the earth, it waters the trees and plants and fills the rivers, lakes and oceans.

Activity 1: *Play the Rain Game.* Hand out the Rain Game headbands (sun, clouds, rain) and have the kids color them with crayons. Have kids divide up into sun (1 child), rain drops (many children), and clouds (many children). Explain in simple terms how the water cycle works: the sun chases water to the clouds, water (rain) falls from the clouds back to earth. Let the sun chase the rain into the clouds and then have the rain “fall” from the clouds back to the ground. Allow the children to take on different roles (sun, clouds, rain).

Lesson 2: Why is water important?

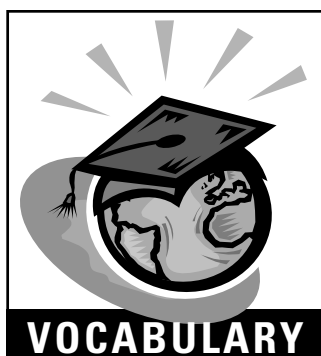
All living things (plants and animals) need water to live. We drink water every day. Fish live in water. Plants need to be watered. What happens when you forget to drink water? What would happen to fish in an aquarium if you took out all of the water? What would happen if you forgot to water your plants?

Discuss the difference between a desert and a rain forest and how water affects what can live in each habitat. Compare the types of plants and animals that live in a desert and rain forest. Could they switch places (e.g., could a cactus live in a rain forest or an orchid live in the desert)?

Demonstration: Show students pictures of a desert, tropical rain forest, and ocean. Explain how the plants and animals live in different conditions (dry, wet).

Demonstration: Read a story to students. Choose a book that tells the story of an animal in one of the habitats mentioned above. Hand out coloring pages that show plants and animals that live in different habitats. Have students color the plants and animals.

* available for teachers from the City of Eugene. See end of unit to order.



sun
lake
ice
plant
cloud
river
snow
animal
rain
ocean

Lesson 3: How do we use water everyday?

Brainstorm: Ask children how they use water everyday. They may include water activities. Use handout provided with pictures of children using water. Some examples include: drinking, bathing, brushing teeth, swimming, cooking, blowing bubbles, painting with water colors, having pet fish.

Handout: Give students the handout showing kids doing water activities. Discuss each activity.

Activity idea: Using watercolors, have students paint a picture of their favorite water activity. Explain how water colors work.

Also available for your classroom:*

SPLASH! Songs CD with songs for children written and performed by Rich Glauber. Lyric sheet is online.

Schedule a visits from Lily the Frog, our stormwater mascot. Lily can visit your classroom to meet your students and help them learn about the wetlands where she lives.

Call or e-mail for details. *



SPLASH! classroom materials are online at happyrivers.org

SPLASH! was developed by the City of Eugene Stormwater Management program to support education about water quality in our community. This program is funded by City of Eugene stormwater user fees.

* For more information, teacher supplies for use with these lessons, the SPLASH! Songs CD, or a visit from Lily, contact jeffrey.j.flowers@ci.eugene.or.us or call 541-682-8482 (Eugene schools only)

Water!

